

European Internationalization Strategy of Kuressaare RTC

Kuressaare Regional Training Centre is committed to the development and implementation of its international relations. This is stated in Development plan of RTC for years 2016-2020.

The international cooperation work of Kuressaare RTC started already at the end of 1980's. The school started the active international project work in 1995 under Phare program and has participated in more than 80 projects since then. KRTC has around 70 outgoing and 35 incoming teachers/students annually. Currently we are working with about 50 different partners from all Europe, we have 10 contracts of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The mission of Kuressaare RTC is to prepare people who would be competitive on the Estonian and international labour market and capable of coping with their lives. As the main goal for KRTC is the quality of training, all measures taken in internationalization are driven from this approach.

The development plan of KRTC for period 2016-2020 states the effective international cooperation as one of main goals.

The objectives of Kuressaare RTC's international agenda are:

- 1) to develop, maintain and promote international partnerships that
 - facilitate student and staff exchanges;
 - create a wider range of work placement opportunities for students;
 - provide more professional development opportunities for staff;
 - enable greater international cooperation for development of VET programmes and benchmarking of good practices and systems;
- 2) to support and promote a wide range of student mobility including all curricula groups in school with an aim to enhance the skills and competencies for working in a multicultural environment and to facilitate the free movement of workers within the EU;
- 3) to involve more teachers and other staff undertaking periods of mobility in other European countries, both study visits and work placements with an aim to enhance the competencies of teachers and increase the quality of training;
- 4) to maintain the balance between incoming and outgoing exchange student and staff numbers through the stimulating direct involvement of vocational departments and teachers;
- 5) to work closely with VET and HE institutions and other organizations with the aim to enhance the level of strategic and operational management of Kuressaare RTC, to find innovative approaches for

further development, but also to provide the existing knowledge and expertise for our partners for reciprocal advancement;

6) to integrate the international approach to curriculum development and everyday training process through different cooperation projects (including using digital media, projects without mobility etc.);

7) to include international teachers and develop the training in other foreign languages to improve the quality of training and enable the involvement of foreign students;

8) to be a member of international associations (AEHT, etc.) and involved in international networks (European ECVET Network, EQAVET, etc.) for gaining more information, better knowledge and cooperation.

KRTC's focus of international cooperation remains on Europe.

The measures and targets of the efficiency of international cooperation

- at least 6% of students have work placement abroad, mainly in the framework of Erasmus+ funding;
- at least 8-10 teachers or other staff per year have work placement or study visit abroad, mainly in the framework of Erasmus+ funding;
- one international partnership project in every department in 3-5 years period;
- the number of international projects and other activities during the school year;
- the impact of innovative approaches to school development derived from international cooperation (describing).

The quality of partnership is assured by tools such as

- selection of partner institutions based on earlier cooperation and shared values;
- selection criteria and procedures for students* (i.e. no academic debts, sufficient language skills, motivation, etc.);
- selection criteria and procedures for staff* (accordance with strategic development plans of person, department and KRTC; sufficient language skills; motivation etc.);
- preparatory studies and counselling for cultural, ethnic and social behaviour and language training;
- ongoing evaluation by all parties before, during and after mobility;
- unified modules (learning outcomes and assessment criteria) described by partners;

- using ECVET principles for recognition and validation of learning outcomes as part of curricula and enabling the transparency of qualifications;
- Memorandum of Understanding;
- Learning Agreement;
- Erasmus Quality Commitment;
- Europass documents;
- regular communication;
- monitoring visits;
- leaflet with personal information (info about accommodation, travel, contact persons, embassy etc.);
- sharing experiences gained during the mobility (department and school based, web, newsletter etc.).

*The application rules for students and staff take into account equal opportunities for everybody, despite of gender, socio-economic status, nationality and race.

Visibility and publicity

There is a separate page called International Cooperation in Kuressaare RTC's homepage www.ametikool.ee, where the following information is available:

- European Internationalization Strategy;
- The map of Europe with signs of KRTC's project partners;
- Information about finished projects;
- Information about ongoing projects;
- Information for out-going students;
- Information for incoming foreign students;
- Articles about projects and mobilities;
- Information about international activities in KRTC.

Project managers and coordinators, head of development and PR manager take care of visibility of international activities.

The work placements abroad end with defence by student, with aim to disseminate the results and good experiences to teachers, students and representatives of local companies, who take part of it.

There is at least one dissemination event during school year to students and teachers, where international activities, projects, plans and achievements are introduced.

Implementation of strategy

More detailed activities for implementing The Internationalization Strategy are stated in school's and departments' action plans for every year. Twice a year the implementation of plans is analysed at Board meeting.